

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 3 October 66 04/0145Z	2. LOCATION Lexington, Kentucky
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Astro (CAPELLA) ✓ <i>jet</i>
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	CAPELLA was on an azimuth of 40 deg and at an elevation of approximately 12 deg at 2100L.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 60 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	Observer noted a star like object in the NE portion of sky. The following motions were noted by the witness, a slow unusually clockwise small circling with a few short darting movements and an imperceptible slow rising toward the zenith and east. But the most astounding thing was that every few to several minutes and lasting for five to thirth seconds the twinkling star shape object would change to a vertical or slightly oblique narrow, at times imperceptible band of light perhaps one fifth as wide as its rounder shape and three to six times as long. At times it had the appearence of a swirling nebula view edgewise.
7. COURSE XX NE	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes XX No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes XX No	

FORM

FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ **MD**
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
LEXINGTON, KY.

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT

TELEPHONE
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

October 4, 1966

Dear Sir:

This is to relate one of the most amazing phenomenons I've ever witnessed. About 8:45-8:50 p.m. 10/3/66 I returned home with my son age 14 years from his scout meeting and let him out in the turnaround to place a tire in the garage one of my younger children had left out. After parking the car, I noted he was looking toward the north-eastern sky where there was what appeared to be a brightly twinkling star about 30 degrees above the horizon. The lights from a shopping center (Eastland) about two miles distant in that direction had made invisible light from all the stars in that area of the sky. The following motions were noted: a slow, usually clockwise small circling; a few short darting movements; and an imperceptible slow rising toward the zenith and east. But most astounding was that every few to several minutes and lasting for five to thirty seconds the twinkling star shape would change to a vertical or slightly oblique narrow, at times imperceptible band of light perhaps one fifth as wide as its rounder shape and three to six times as long. At times it had the appearance of a swirling nebula view edgewise. Then a slightly undulating, narrow horizontal band, faint to moderately bright, red almost fluorescing light would appear 10 round widths above and upper end of the white band and of about the same length. The brightness of the horizontal red band was inversely proportional to the brightness of the white band. Then suddenly all would contract back to the brightly twinkling

Send 164

FTD (TDETR)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433
7 October 1966

[REDACTED] M. D.

Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]

Reference your observation of 3 October. The information which we have received is not sufficient for evaluation. Request you complete the attached FTD Form 164 and return it in the envelope provided.

We wish to thank you for reporting your observation to the Air Force.

Sincerely,

Hector Quintanilla, Jr.
HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr., Major, USAF
Chief, Project Blue Book

Dear Major:

I observed something of the same phenomenon 2 nights later about the same time & called 2 M.D. friends of mine who are amateur astronomers. They were as amazed as I was but after some period of observation & discussion came up with the answer. We were watching a star of the 1st magnitude, Capella & the aberrations were caused by heat coming up from the shopping center pavement which was interposed (at 1 1/2 - 2 miles distance) between our observation point & the star. When viewed thru field glasses or telescope virtually all the aberrations were eliminated. Very sincerely,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] M. D.

[REDACTED]
LEXINGTON, KY.

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT

TELEPHONE
[REDACTED]

page 2 of 2

star shape again. We observed this for nearly an hour during which the body rose to perhaps plus 45 degrees toward the zenith and plus 15 degrees toward the east. Your explanation of this remarkable phenomenon will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], M.D.

ba

3 Oct 66

FTD (TDETR)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433
13 October 1966

[REDACTED], M.D.
[REDACTED]
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for the information regarding your observation of Capella. With your permission, I would like to send your letter to Dr. Menzel at Harvard Observatory. Dr. Menzel has been studying mirages, sky reflections and refractions for many years and I am sure he would be interested in the vivid description of your observation.

Thank you again for your most gracious letter.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Quintilla, Jr.
ROBERT J. QUINTILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Project Blue Book

you have my permission.
[REDACTED]